Before the Federal Communications Commission Washington, DC

In the Matter of)
Amendments of Parts 73 and 74 of the	<i>)</i>)
Commission's rules to Establish Rules for	MB-Docket No. 03-185
Digital Low Power Television, Television)
Translator and Television Booster Stations)
and to Amend Rules for Digital Class A)
Television Stations)

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF ALLOWING ALTERNATE MODULATION AND COMPRESSION SYSTEMS ON LPTV STATIONS

First, Viacel believes that LPTV stations should be allowed to use modulation systems other than 8-VSB. They should be allowed to use advanced compression algorithms. They should be allowed to use multiple transmitter sites in the form of an SFN (Single Frequency Network).

LPTV stations have historically been given more latitude in how they can be used. LPTV stations by definition cannot interfere with existing full power stations since they have second-class status.

Allowing other modulation and compression systems on LPTV stations will open the door to a more efficient use of the LPTV spectrum. More programming will be possible on the same 6 MHz of bandwidth. More programming than is possible with MPEG-2 for example

It will also allow the use of low cost digital TV receivers already being mass-produced for other countries. Such receivers can cost as little as \$60 and are readily available for any LPTV station. It would allow the continued use of low cost analog TV sets most of which will never be attached to HDTV capable receivers that cost far more today. Receivers using other modulation systems would also be more plug and play with simple indoor antennas.

Other modulation systems like DVB-T, ISDB-T and DBM-T are currently or soon will be available. Others are and will be developed. Allowing LPTV stations to use such other modulations will create markets for and so facilitate the further development of advanced modulation and compression systems.

Second, Viacel Corporation, as owner of spectrum won in Auction #49, believes that allowing new applications for translator, LPTV or booster stations to be applied for in channels above #51 would not be in the best interest of the holding of new auctions as soon as possible, the winners of spectrum already auctioned or those who might apply for such use as LPTV, booster or translator stations.

While the FCC and Congress may view the value of the spectrum on channels above #51 in terms of the funds it can garner at auction for the US Treasury, Viacel believes that the greatest value of this spectrum is the use of the spectrum. As long as it is not being used to its greatest potential some or all of its value is being wasted everyday. No auction however successful will ever recapture this lost value.

The fact that no dollar value is placed on this waste does not make it any less a waste. Letting this spectrum be re-employed as soon as possible will also generate employment and taxes also unknown as long as the spectrum sets idle.

Letting LPTV, Booster and Translators apply for spectrum above channel #51 suggest that little faith is placed in the quick resolution of the DTV transition. Viacel believes that this spectrum can be used now, that the DTV transition can be achieved quickly. In Berlin Germany they started their DTV transition on November 1st 2002 and turned off all analog broadcasting in August of 2003. There was little protest from analog TV viewers because of the way the transition was handled.

Respectively submitted, Viacel Corporation

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